

Lather

Government
Publications

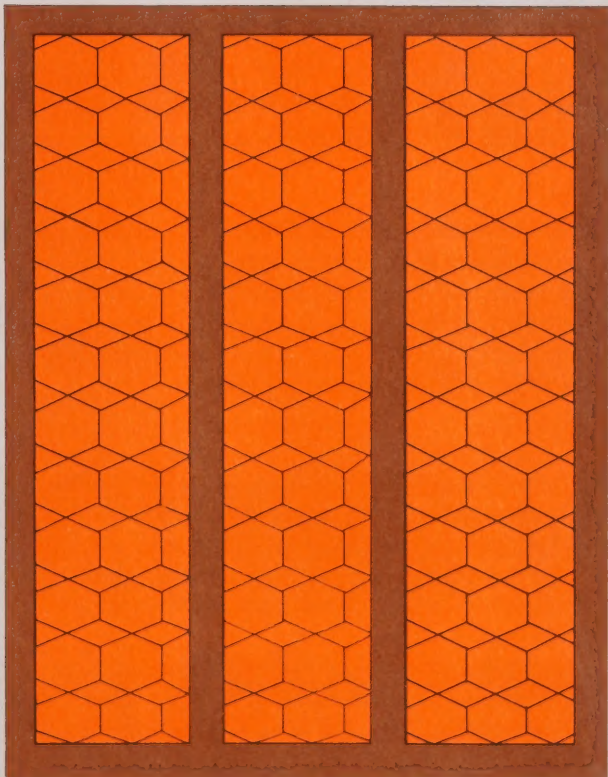
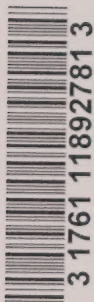
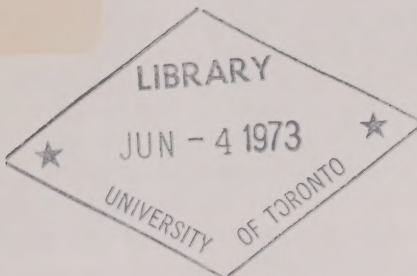
Ministry of Colleges & Universities
Apprenticeship Training

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In the early days, the reeds of bulrushes from the river banks were collected, dried and secured to joists and studwork to form the base for the coats of plaster. From this beginning the trade of lather evolved.

The materials and their application have changed considerably since those times. A highly trained lather is required to fashion intricate shapes in expanding metal mesh and erecting wallboard, to allow the plasterer to finish the surface according to the dictates of an architect's or owner's specification.

For young men interested in a career in this vital and challenging vocation, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is sponsoring an attractive, modernized apprenticeship training program.

During the life of the contract the apprentice works under the supervision of skilled and experienced journeymen.

Qualifications

Applicants for apprenticeship must be 16 years or over and have a minimum of Grade 10 standing in an Ontario secondary school or an equivalent level of education.

There are no maximum age limits for apprentices but a good physical condition is required. They should have an interest in mathematics, blueprint reading and geometric design.

Duties

The experienced lather in Ontario is expected to be knowledgeable in a wide range of duties including: job lay-out and planning; machine and hand tool application; fastening systems, ceiling systems and wall systems; specification comprehension; safety requirements and scaffold erection.

Training

The apprenticeship training program for lather tradesmen covers three periods of 1,800 hours each (equivalent to approximately 2½ years) consisting of practical on-the-job training coupled with related instruction at a College of Applied Arts and Technology.

The related courses of instruction are compulsory, and include a ten-week basic course and a ten-week advanced course near the end of the apprenticeship contract.

Training Allowances

During in-school instruction the apprentice's tuition fees, living allowance and travel expenses are provided by the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, under a shared-cost agreement.

Earning While Learning

While training on the job, apprentices earn while they learn. Their wages are based on a percentage of those paid to a journeyman in the same trade in the same shop. An apprentice in this trade receives 40 per cent of the prevailing rate for journeymen in this area during the first period of apprenticeship. The rate advances to 60 and 80 per cent in each of the succeeding periods.

At the conclusion of each 1800-hour period, apprentices must receive the recommendation of their employer before proceeding to the next period of the contract.

Certificates

On completion of the three periods, apprentices must write a final examination. A passing mark of 60 per cent will entitle them to a Certificate of Apprenticeship. The Certificate of Qualification is issued by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for this trade on the payment of a \$10 fee which does not require renewal.

Employment Prospects

A continued increase in the employment of these workers is expected. In addition to openings resulting from the expansion of the trade, replacement needs will create a considerable number of other job opportunities for new workers each year in the areas of residential construction, industrial and commercial construction and restoration work.

Once the apprentice attains the status of journeyman, his individual abilities are usually the controlling factor in his advancement to administrative position or ownership of his business.

Enquiries

All enquiries concerning apprenticeship should be addressed to the Director of Industrial Training or the district offices across the Province listed on the back of this leaflet.

District Offices
Industrial Training Branch

Barrie 728-3727	North Bay 474-5509
Belleville 968-8671	Ottawa 731-2556
Brantford 756-5197	Owen Sound 376-5790
Brockville 342-5033	Pembroke 732-9994
Callandar 752-1231	Peterborough 743-4172
Chatham 352-2800	St. Catharines 682-4313
Cornwall 933-4260	Sarnia 337-2165
Fort Erie 871-7621	Sault Ste. Marie 949-3331
Guelph 821-3770	Stratford 273-1520
Hamilton 527-2951	Sudbury 566-3071
Kenora 468-6167	Thunder Bay 345-2101
Kingston 542-2853	Timmins 267-2420
Kitchener 744-5211	Toronto 965-4211
London 438-2911	Windsor 256-8278



Ministry of Colleges & Universities
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